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# **ELECTRISATION**

AS A REMEDY

FOR THE

## **DISEASES OF WOMEN,**

HAVING SPECIAL REFERENCE TO

## **MENSTRUAL IRREGULARITY**

AND OTHER DISORDERS OF THE

## **UTERINE SYSTEM**

BY MR C. B. HARNESS.

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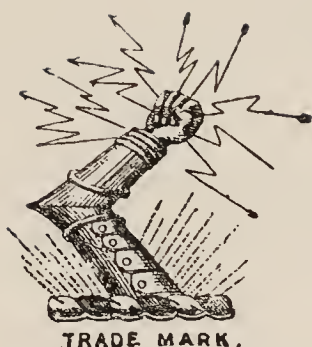
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## PREFACE.



52, OXFORD STREET,

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I have frequently been asked by Ladies who had suffered from diseases peculiar to women and been cured by the Electropathic treatment, for some concise little work on the subject which could be conveniently circulated amongst their friends. So much suffering is silently endured by the numerous class, who, at one time of life or another, are afflicted with some form of menstrual irregularity, or other uterine derangement, that no apology is needed in offering to Ladies a brief explanation of the true nature of their sufferings, of the causes from which they spring, and the means by which, in my long experience in the Medical uses of Electricity, I have found that these painful and distressing maladies can be at once alleviated and ultimately completely cured.

C. B. HARNESS,

Consulting Electrician to

The Medical Battery Company, Limited.

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**THE MENSTRUAL PHENOMENA.**

The establishment of the function of Menstruation is an event of much importance in the lives of women. The phenomena is first manifested about the age of puberty, and the process being intimately connected with the aptitude for gestation, and characteristic of the capacity for reproducing the species, its proper and healthy performance may in this respect be said to affect in some measure the happiness of both sexes. But it is in relation to the physical well-being of women themselves that this little book is mainly concerned, for it is one of Nature's inexorable laws that no female can enjoy perfect health unless the function is regularly performed, and not preceded by, or attended with, symptoms detrimental to the general health.

In our own and other temperate climates the menstrual flow appears at ages varying between twelve and nineteen, but from observations which have been verified, it commences more frequently at the age of fifteen than any other, though there is no definite rule for girls reared "in the lap of luxury," and accustomed to sensuous excitement and free living, undergo the change at an earlier age than those brought up under a sterner regime of compulsory self-denial. The flow recurs about every twenty-eight days, its normal duration being three to six days, during which four to eight ounces of fluid matter are exuded from the system. The discharge is of a sanguineous character, and as it issues from the uterus appears to consist of ordinary blood, but in its passage through the vagina it becomes intermingled with acidulated mucous excretions which prevent coagulation.

In healthy women this continues for a period of about 30 years, usually ceasing between the ages of 45 and 50; the time of the disappearance of the flow is known as the Menopause, or perhaps more familiarly, by the term "change of life," it occurs gradually, and when complete the womb becomes passive, the power of reproduction vanishes, and with its entire cessation many of the peculiar sexual characteristics are lost.

At the time of the inception of the menstrual function the system is subject to very remarkable changes, these are for the most part connected with the reproductive organs, which both internally and externally are considerably augmented in size, the mammary glands and pelvic viscera are rapidly enlarged, the ovaria become more fully developed, and the uterus manifests increased powers of secretion and irritability. The first appearance of the catamenia almost always occurs while these changes are progressing. But quite apart from these other changes are especially noticeable, the nervous system betrays greater susceptibility, while, as regards the mental condition, there is a very marked increase in the passions of emotion and imagination. Physically a roundness and fulness of the whole body is observed, and the general contour assumes the aspect of approaching maturity in which the divinity of woman reaches the highest point of ideality. This is the sketch of a healthy girl as Nature introduces her to the threshold of womanhood. But what is the reverse side of the picture? Should the uterine organs remain quiescent and the menses fail to appear, nutrition and development are arrested, the body becomes unhealthy, a general appearance of anæmia sets in, fatty cellular substance is formed in place of muscular tissue, the patient is languid, depressed and melancholy, the mental faculties are weakened, the natural passions warped and blighted, the energies and vital forces of the system are annihilated, while as time goes on it is probable that premature Phthisis puts an end to a debilitated and miserable existence, indeed it is an ascertained fact that in almost every instance of female mortality from Consumption, occurring during the times of life when the sexual functions should be in a state of healthy activity, the initial stage of the disease has arisen from deranged Menstruation, and is of course more speedily fatal in those of a Scrofulous diathesis.

The origination of the menstrual flux is invariably preceded and accompanied by a constitutional disturbance of the system, more or less severe in different individuals. The symptoms most pronounced are headaches, drowsiness, pains in the loins, and down the thighs, feelings of lassitude, a sense of fatigue in the lower extremities, and indisposition for exertion, while the appetite becomes fastidious and the digestion impaired. Several successions of the evacuation are often attended with similar sufferings prior to the function being properly established, but the repetition of the process is one so largely dependant upon the general well-being, that *although in an absolutely perfect*



*state of health a woman not only menstruates with regularity but does so free from pain*, the number is exceedingly limited of those who pass through the entire period of sexual activity without experiencing some kind of suffering before or during the monthly visitation.

In my extensive practice as an Electro-Therapeutist, I have been much struck with the large proportion of female cases confided to my care (both single and married, and, of the latter, those who have become mothers as well as those who have not) in which from varying causes, some form of uterine derangement has been a prominent symptom, and directly responsible for other complications which, being neglected, and their primary cause probably misunderstood, have allowed the patient to gradually drift into a serious state of ill-health.

Before dealing with the derangements of Menstruation, it may be well to briefly describe the phenomena of its origin. The organs responsible for its production are the uterus and the ovaries, the latter being two oval-shaped glands connected with the womb by organic ligaments of extreme delicacy known as the Fallopian tubes. The ovaries become considerably enlarged at the age of puberty, and thenceforward exert a remarkable influence upon the female system. Their office is to produce the germs which are the female contribution towards the creation of new life. Each ovary contains twenty to thirty small cells known as the Graafian Vesicles, the exact number of these cannot be accurately arrived at as their development is gradual, the ova maturing successively from the period of puberty to that of the turn of life. Every twenty-eight days or thereabouts a perfect germ escapes from the ovary, is taken up by the Fallopian tubes, and by a contractile process conveyed to the uterus—this occupying from two to six days. When lodged in the womb, impregnation may ensue should coitus take place, but otherwise it is in due course expelled from the body. The maturation of the ovule is attended with a degree of excitement which causes inflammatory congestion and a determination of blood to the parts, this action culminating antecedent to the reception of the ovule by the womb when the distended and surcharged blood vessels find relief by throwing off blood and mucous.

This is a short account of why and how Menstruation takes place, and I have included it in as concise a manner as possible in these pages, that the true nature of a constantly repeated function may be understood by those who are subject to it.

The principal deviations from a normal performance of the menstrual process are as follows :—

1. Amenorrhœa.
2. Dysmenorrhœa.
3. Menorrhagia.

Each of these derangements arises from different causes, and it will therefore be best to deal with them separately.

## AMENORRHŒA

indicates an absence or suspension of the menses when they ought naturally to occur. In some cases the flow fails to make its appearance at the usual age, this is generally a consequence of a morbid condition of the circulatory or nervous systems, but more frequently a derangement of both. Isolated instances are recorded where the non-appearance has been due to imperforation of the hymen, to malformation or some congenital defect of the uterine system, but these are very rare causes of the accumulation or retention of the flow, and in any case their treatment belongs to the domain of operative surgery.

What we have to consider here is *relief for the suppression of the Menses*, (*i.e.*, their discontinuance or irregular appearance when once established) and this I regret to say is a very prevalent female complaint and causes grievous suffering. Now in order that the catamenial function may be duly initiated and afterwards periodically sustained, it is requisite there should be healthy development of the whole generative apparatus, a vigorous condition and energetic action of the various organs, together with a proportionate degree of what may be termed general constitutional power. In some instances the suppression of the menstrual phenomena is undoubtedly due to constitutional disease, in others the development of the uterine system has not corresponded with the progressive maturing of the rest of the body, local weakness preventing the production or continuance of the sanguineous flow characteristic of perfect health.

In these cases considerable gastric irritability supervenes, inducing an exodus of mucous from the intestines, followed by a Leucorrhœal discharge constituting what is known as vicarious (or substituted) menstruation.

Thus, while it is true that constitutional causes may and do arrest the catamenia, it is equally true that no grave uterine trouble *from whatever cause it may arise*, can exist for any length of time without re-acting upon the general health, the nervous system also becoming disordered and the numerous functions under its influence imperfectly performed, and in this manner the unfortunate patient often passes months, even years, of suffering, in what may be termed a vicious circle of cause and effect.

But by far the most fruitful cause of menstrual suppression is that condition of Anæmia or deficiency and poorness of blood observable in women of delicate constitutions, and most frequently found in those who live indolent and luxurious lives, and disorder the system by a disregard of those habits which are essential to a healthy state. *The inevitable result is a state of chronic invalidism* brought about by a variety of causes, such as tight lacing and other absurdities of fashion, by late hours and irregular meals, perversion of the nutritive forces and neglect of the ordinary

rules of hygiene, the consequence being a condition of anæmic debility developing Amenorrhœa. All this is erroneously attributed to the failure of the uterine functions, when such failure is merely symptomatic, healthy menstrual activity being necessarily impaired by constitutional enfeeblement.

*Treatment.*—The treatment of all cases of Amenorrhœa should be primarily directed to raising the constitutional tone and building up the general health, to enriching the blood, and equalizing its circulation, to improving the digestive and alimentary functions, in the accomplishment of which the tonic stimulative influences of Electricity are absolutely unrivalled.

Many of my former patients, whose acute sufferings had resisted all kinds of emmenagogues or forcing medicines resorted to by the Faculty, have been at once relieved, and soon completely cured, by the use of one of my medium-power ELECTRO-PATHIC BELTS, which convey the “continuous” current of electricity in a mild form and an agreeable manner to the lumbar and suprapubic regions of the body. These Belts are manufactured in a variety of styles to suit every kind of physique, they are not heavy, bulky, or cumbersome, do not interfere with the figure or cut of the dress, and from external appearances it is not apparent that an appliance imparting a potent curative agency to the body is being used. When they have achieved the remedial purpose for which they are worn, they may safely be dispensed with. In conjunction with this Electrical treatment, certain rules as to diet and regimen should be observed, but as these differ according to the plethoric or opposite habit of body of the sufferer, I shall be glad to communicate by letter with any lady who wishes for guidance on these points.

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## DYSMENORRHŒA.

This form of menstrual malady signifies a difficult and painful performance of the function when it recurs. The principal phases of it are the *Neuralgic*, the *Congestive*, and the *Membraneous*. If abnormal conditions are existent either in the structures from which the blood flows into the uterus, or any other of the adjacent parts, they become congested, menstruation becomes exceedingly difficult and painful, and is seriously injurious to health by the agonizing suffering it produces.

In the *Neuralgic* form there is an extreme sensitiveness of the ovarian and uterine nerves, which is sympathetically referred to distant nerve centres, and, disordering the general nervous system, reflects upon the menstrual function, causing spasmodic paroxysms of pain, which are said to be more intensely distressing than those of labour experienced during parturition.

In the *Congestive* form the continuance of the function is interrupted after its commencement by a superabundant afflux



of blood to the parts arresting the exudation, and it is almost needless to add that it is in women of plethoric temperament that this derangement occurs.

Dysmenorrhœa of the *Membraneous* type is comparatively rare; suffice it to say, that in consequence of some morbid condition, the entire mucous membrane of the uterine cavity becomes disintegrated, and is ultimately expelled. While this is in progress it is easy to understand the patient suffers acute pain, which becomes more violent the longer the expulsion is delayed.

*Treatment.*—Care should be taken by the patient to avoid the contraction of cold through inadequate clothing or getting the feet wet, as tending to set up inflammation and congestion. The evacuation of the bowels should be kept regular, and the perspiratory functions of the skin encouraged by frequent tepid baths, afterwards restoring the circulation by friction of the skin with an Electric Flesh Brush. The special value of electricity in removing the abnormal conditions by its stimulative effects is unsurpassed, while its anodyne properties soothes pain, and any woman who is afflicted with this terrible monthly ordeal should wear regularly an ELECTROPATHIC BELT of good power, with such other modifications as the severity of any individual case may require. I have successfully treated many of these cases, and for those of a complicated and obstinate nature a Belt is manufactured with terminals attached to each group of generators, so that, if necessary, a Constant Current Battery can be periodically joined up to increase both the quantity and intensity of the stimulative currents and hasten the cure.

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## MENORRHAGIA.

This term signifies an immoderate or profuse continuance of the monthly loss. It must be borne in mind in connection with this extremely debilitating disorder, that the uterus is the only organ of the body from which a flow of blood is a normal physiological process, and it is not therefore surprising that slight and numerous causes are liable to excite an excessive and dangerous hemorrhage. This is especially so with young women of lymphatic habit whose organs lack tone and energy, and whose blood is poor, watery, and deficient in vital elements. In this type the causes which suffice to produce Menorrhagia, such as slight exertion or emotion, are so trifling as to lead to almost constant hemorrhage, which sometimes becomes so continuous and abundant as to end in death. In any case the vital force of the system must be seriously weakened by the inordinate loss of blood, great debility of the nervous and organic functions follows, and repeated occurrences break down the strongest constitution.

*Treatment.*—Proper methods of Electrification speedily exercise a controlling influence upon the excessive flow, and by aiding nutrition, enriching the blood, and imparting increased muscular tone to the uterine system, the menstrual function gradually becomes healthily reinstated. It is not unusual for this disorder to be associated with Leucorrhœa between the intervals of the flow, but this complication can be dealt with by very simple local treatment, which will be explained to those requiring it.

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## CHANGE OF LIFE (Menstrual Cessation)

Is a very critical period, occurring sometime after the forty-fifth year. If the bodily health is good and there has been no serious disease consequent upon irregularity or excess, the cessation of Menstruation is generally achieved under favourable conditions by a gradual diminution ending in total disappearance, and is then attended with a marked resuscitation of physical vigour. But more often than not there are serious disturbances of the general health. When the flow of blood is suddenly diverted from the uterus it is very liable to be determined to some other part of the body, especially the head, causing distressing hysteria, acute nervous irritability, and a condition of extreme mental tension. The change also favours the development of any latent morbid tendencies, such as the growth of tumours, and may be superseded by an acrid excretion from the vaginal membranes. The approach of the period is one at which it behoves women to exercise great care in conserving the physical energies to enable them to pass through the menstrual climacteric, without suffering seriously in health.

*Treatment.*—The most essential point is to ensure *equalization of the circulation of the blood*, in which mild currents of Electricity continuously applied are of paramount service, and these, together with strict attention to hygienic measures, the use of a dietary which assists the regularity of the bowels, and a judicious avoidance of over-exertion and undue fatigue, will enable women to “cross the rubicon” successfully.

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## LEUCORRHŒA (Fluor Albus).

Amongst the ailments peculiar to women this disorder is more familiarly known as “Whites.” It is of two varieties, the vaginal and uterine, and may be described as a condition of Chronic Catarrh of these parts. It is a widely prevalent complaint, and probably not a single woman goes through life without at some period suffering from it. The most common form is the vaginal discharge, which consists of a white, creamy, purulent looking fluid, acid in character, and varied at times by a



yellow or greenish tinge. The uterine excretion is distinctly alkaline and charged with albumen and certain constituents of the blood. This disease is very debilitating, many women becoming extremely reduced in health, although the discharge is but meagre; it is not a purely local complaint, but depends upon a relaxed condition of the system, and is always more or less associated with general debility. Its symptomatic origin is due to a morbid state of congestion and inflammation of the mucous membrane in which the natural secretions become excessive, irritating, and often offensive. The pre-disposing causes are derangements of Menstruation before alluded to, ulceration of the cervix, displacements of the uterus, various organic lesions, pregnancy, &c., and the morbid condition may be developed co-existently with almost every variety of uterine derangement. The general symptoms accompanying it are very distressing, and Leucorrhœa should be promptly treated or it soon becomes chronic, causing a certain amount of relaxation of the vaginal walls, and seriously weakening one of the supports of the womb, from which Prolapsus, with its excruciating bearing down pains, may result.

*Treatment.*—Electrically this should be as in derangements of the Menstrual Flux, with the special object of a restoration of tone and strength to the body generally, as well as to the tissues affected, which the specific action of electric currents is pre-eminently calculated to impart, and I have known many cases in which Electrification alone applied to the organs of nutrition has arrested the abnormal discharge. With regard to local treatment, cleanliness is of course important, as if the profuse secretions lie for a long time stagnant in the vaginal canal they become a source of further irritation to the mucous lining of the already inflamed parts. I therefore think it wise, at least in some cases there should be an injection twice or thrice daily of lotions prepared from safe and properly authenticated formulæ, which will be found a valuable auxiliary to the electrical treatment indicated, and Ladies may rest assured that this scientific combination will soon accomplish all that is desired in effecting a speedy cure. Each individual case requires to be specially treated according to the nature of the symptoms, and if these are described in the Advice Form which will be found at the end of the book, and submitted to me, I shall be glad to give any patient the benefit of advice (either personally or by letter) which is founded upon considerable experience in the successful treatment of this disorder. As regards diet, this should be simple and nutritious, all spices, stimulants, and condiments should be rigidly avoided, and the patient should have change of air, with cheerful society and surroundings.

## CHLOROSIS (Green Sickness).

This is a malady principally affecting young girls at the age of Puberty, when the dormant functions of the ovaries are being aroused prior to the development of womanhood. The term "green sickness" is expressive of the peculiar pallor of the countenance which in this disorder assumes the pale greenish yellow appearance of plants that have been deprived of their natural colour by exclusion from the sunlight. The condition is one closely allied to Anæmia, a neurosis or morbid condition of the nerves, disturbing the control they should exercise over organic life, producing disorder of the Menstrual capacity, impoverishment of the blood, Constipation, Dyspepsia, Palpitation, Hysteria, and serious mental derangements. All the functions are inadequately performed, and as the organs concerned in these are intimately connected each with the others and governed by the nervous system, the lack of vitality of this system renders it incapable of fulfilling the purposes it is destined to perform. An extraordinary characteristic of the disease is the display of perverted and even depraved tastes, the appetite particularly is demoralised, there being a great craving for acids, such as pickles, lemons, &c., and highly seasoned foods, while patients have been known to swallow with avidity and apparent relish such substances as chalk, clay, paper, coals, &c.

*Treatment.*—Should be directed to exciting the torpor of the secretions of the liver, stomach, bowels and uterus, and imparting energetic action to the whole series of organic processes, in which respect the influence of Electricity is unique. An ELECTROPATHIC BELT specially constructed to have combined and simultaneous effects upon the various organs, speedily removes the causes of the disease, and imparts a healthy tone to the body which is permanently maintained. Physical exercise out of doors should be encouraged, and all influences calculated to produce nervous excitation or to powerfully affect the emotions, should be sedulously avoided.

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## PROLAPSUS UTERI (Falling of the Womb).

This and other forms of uterine displacement, productive of great pain and weakness, are generally regarded as needing only local treatment, whereas they are more or less symptomatic of general derangement, and should be dealt with from a constitutional standpoint. When the natural supports of the womb have become weakened and relaxed, permitting prolapse or lowering, the cause is invariably traceable to the existence of considerable general debility. Numerous kinds of pessaries and other mechanical contrivances have been devised for artificially supporting the organ in position, but, except as a temporary

matter their continuance should be avoided as calculated to further irritate, inflame, and weaken the sensitive tissues, and render the prolapsus infinitely worse than before they were resorted to. The symptoms of any serious displacement are acute pains in the back and loins, sensations of weight in the vicinity of the uterus ("bearing down" pains these are usually termed), feelings of fatigue upon ordinary exertion, Leucorrhœa, and irritability of the lower intestines and bladder, causing chronic disturbance and desire for frequent urination. Another circumstance which favours Prolapsus is the compression of the waist by tight lacing, which tends to force the intestinal organs situate immediately above, down upon the womb, subjecting it to constant pressure, which sooner or later must have prejudicial results.

*Treatment.*—The cardinal mistake in the treatment of Prolapsus of the womb is the fallacy that it is a *local* disease requiring only local treatment, whereas the first aim should be to increase constitutional strength, so that the ligaments and surrounding tissue which hold the organ in position may be endowed with greater muscular tone and power. While this rational treatment is in progress—and I would here warn ladies that cure can only be gradually accomplished—the womb will be steadily drawn into its normal position by a cohesive process, and its natural location healthily maintained. To those acquainted with the marvellous stimulative, tonic, and strengthening influences which Electricity exerts upon the human frame, it is obvious that in the near future Electrification is destined to occupy a much more prominent position in removing the cause of many derangements which are contributory to what is known as "female weakness." When I am consulted on this matter I always recommend an ELECTROPATHIC "ABDOMINAL BELT" of good electrical strength and special construction to be worn, *the appliance being made to fit easily at the waist* and having a supporting strap passing round the lower portion of the hips and abdomen, the adjustment of which can be easily regulated by the patient herself. This form of appliance serves a two-fold purpose, it has undeniable curative influences, and is so constructed as to prevent pressure from the organs situate immediately above the uterus, while at the same time *it affords agreeable and effective support where most needed.* The patient should sleep on a hard mattress, take frequent cold baths and outdoor exercise, eat nutritious food that is easy of digestion, keep the bowels regular, and avoid standing for any length of time, and by following these hints in conjunction with the Electrical treatment suggested, she will, in the course of time, be completely restored to health.

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For diagram and description of HARNESS' NATURAL  
UTERINE SUPPORTER see page 30.

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## UTERINE TUMOURS AND POLYPI.

These morbid growths are composed of fibroid and mucous tissue, and vary in size from that of a pea to enormous masses, in which development there is ultimately suppression of one or more of the organs essential to life. Attempts at removal by the surgeon's knife not infrequently end fatally, but a new method of treatment has sprung up in the employment of Electrolysis, by which the excrescence is made to receive from a Battery powerful currents of electricity without affecting the surrounding tissue. By this means the growths are reduced and sometimes entirely dispersed, but it is unnecessary to add such cases require special treatment which can only be carried out by an operator skilled in Electrical administration.

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## FEMALE WEAKNESS.

Besides the distinctive types of disease before mentioned as chiefly affecting the reproductive organs, it is a most common thing to find women suffering from a condition of ill health which may be correctly termed Internal Weakness. Though they are able to get about there is a general aspect of lassitude and an indisposition for exertion, sinking feelings at the pit of the stomach, and distressing nervous sensations are experienced, the eye loses its lustre, and the complexion its healthful bloom, the respiration is weak, and the hands and feet cold, shewing deficiency in the circulation as well as in the vital properties of the blood, and although not absolutely an invalid, the patient is "very much below par," and causes alarm to her friends by the fear that she is lapsing into Chronic Decline. Women in this state are often erroneously treated by the family Doctor for Dyspepsia, Heart affections, Liver and Kidney troubles, &c., which if existent are not of primary origin but symptomatically reflected from a uterine malady. I have for a long time held the opinion that in this very prevalent form of female debility, the seat of actual disease is often to be found in some affection of the womb, which anatomically is in intimate sympathetic connection with every internal organ of the female economy, and bearing this important fact in mind it is not surprising that any derangement of the functions of this sensitive structure, however slight, should be liable to establish a sequence of symptoms seriously affecting the vitality of the system, lowering the nervous force, and rendering life wearisome. In the majority of cases of this kind, the diagnosis is simple, and they yield readily to a rational and appropriate course of Electrification carried out concurrently with the observance of common sense rules as to domestic management and hygiene previously referred to.

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## HYSTERIA.

Since the publication of former editions of this pamphlet such a large proportion of cases have been submitted to me in which hysterical tendencies are disclosed in the description of symptoms demanding treatment that I have deemed it necessary to add an addenda on this eccentric form of nervous disturbance.

Although Hysteria is not always identified with derangements of the female sexual system, such derangements must without doubt be regarded as very powerful excitive causes, and especially where they are existent with a constitutional condition inheriting the hysteric diathesis.

Indeed, the nomenclature of the disease is from the Greek word *hustera*—the womb—which organ, from the earliest times, was the supposed seat of the disorder. Hysteria has been defined as “a nervous disorder, often assuming the most varied forms, but commonly presenting a paroxysmal character, the attacks usually commencing with a flow of limpid urine, with uneasiness or irregular motions in the left iliac region, or the sensation of a ball rising upwards to the throat, frequently attended by a feeling of suffocation, and sometimes with convulsions, chiefly affecting females from the period of puberty to the decline of life, and principally those possessing great susceptibility of the nervous system and of mental emotion.”

Hysteria is seldom observed amongst men, being almost exclusively confined to women, and it is essentially a disorder of the nervous system. The first indication of this obscure and intricate disease, usually commences in early life, and it may also be mentioned that the attacks occur more generally about the time of menstruation than at any other period. The reason of this is at once apparent when it is borne in mind that the uterine system is abundantly endowed with minute and highly sensitive nerves connecting it closely with the whole nervous system, and establishing that dual relationship of cause and effect in which uterine disorder is sometimes an important factor in the nervous excitement which culminates in the convulsive paroxysm of Hysteria, while in others it is a referred effect of the Hysteric neurosis. Sir James Paget, in his lectures on “Nervous Mimicry,” while objecting to a comprehensive use of the word Hysteria as signifying forms of nervous disorder to which it is not related, states that “the close and multifarious relations of the (female) sexual organs with the mind, and with all parts of the nervous system, are enough to make the disorders of these organs dominant in a disorderly nervous constitution.”

Although the etymological signification of the phrase is characteristic of its relation to some form or other of uterine derangement, it must not be held to exclude the moral, social, and hygienic causes contributing to the hysteric condition, as



quite apart from the contributory causes referred to, many cases of youthful Hysteria have their sinister origin in a vicious system of high-pressure education at school, the physical welfare being sacrificed to undue mental and nervous tension in acquiring numerous accomplishments, to such an extent, that a few years later the young woman whose mission in life has perchance no other definite object than to wait for a husband, who keeps late hours in crowded heated rooms, eats unhealthy suppers, and has no serious occupation that will interest the mind, becomes the victim of *ennui*, lassitude, and mental inertia, leading up to the "fit of hysterics" which it may here be well to briefly describe.

It often takes place without any premonitory warning other than a burst of tears from no apparent cause, the patient being seized with a sudden choking from the sensation of a ball rising from the abdomen to the throat—the *globus hystericus*, as it is termed—succeeded by panting, difficult respiration and convulsive movements of the arms, violently beating the breast as if endeavouring to relieve the sensation of suffocation, and accompanied by a variety of distortions of the trunk of the body, and distressing perturbations of the action of the heart. At the height of the paroxysm the patient appears to be threatened with suffocation, she becomes faint, the face is flushed, the eyes are bright and lustrous, but consciousness is seldom wholly lost, and after some minutes the fit terminates with wild spasmodic outbursts, in which laughter, screaming, incoherent talk, and sobbing cries rapidly alternate, leaving the unfortunate patient in a state of complete exhaustion. All this suffering is terribly real, and exhibits a strange and irrepressible riot of the emotions engendered by an exalted sensibility of the nervous system, which impairs the controlling power of the will.

Of the domestic management of the subject of an Hysterical fit little need be said here. The best plan is to place the patient on a bed where the danger of injury is minimised, loosen her clothing, lave the head and face liberally with cold water, and after the violence of the paroxysm is over leave her alone for a time, when she will probably lapse into slumber.

Generally speaking, the hysteric patient is not physically strong, there is an anæmic appearance, a feeble circulation of the blood, an impairment of digestion and perversion of nutrition, and IN ALL CASES THERE IS A DERANGED CONDITION OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, IN WHICH THE INFLUENCE OF EMOTION UNDULY PREPONDERATES. Amongst the predisposing causes, luxurious and idle habits of life, and the lack of some employment to interest the mind, so commonly prevalent amongst the wealthier classes, favour the production of the disease. Hysteria also commences at an early age, often when girls are in their teens, before they are eligible for matrimony; and it

has been aptly said of young women that "they often remain single because they are hysteric, and as often become hysteric because they are single," the circumstances of disappointed affection and enforced celibacy operating quite as strongly as many other of the conducive causes.

One of the most remarkable local manifestations of Hysteria is the simulation of disease of some particular part. Very frequently the spine is the *locale* of hysteric pain, simulating the pain of spinal disorder, and has often been mistaken by medical practitioners for structural disease which did not exist. I recollect a case in which I was consulted a few years back of a young lady in a Midland town (I am not at liberty, for purely private reasons, to mention names) who was represented to be suffering from hip disease, which all medical remedies had failed to remove. The patient was practically bed-ridden—at any rate she seldom left her couch, and upon examination I came to the conclusion it was a localised hysteric affection, and treated it successfully with suitable constitutional and local applications of the galvanic current, assisted by the social and hygienic influences I was able to bring to bear upon the case. In connection with this part of the subject, we have the high authority of the late Sir Benjamin Brodie that "among the higher classes of society at least four-fifths of the female patients who are commonly supposed to labour under diseases of the joints, labour under Hysteria, and nothing else.

Dr. Anna Kingsford, who has deeply studied the origin of a disease specially affecting her own sex, and has applied a rare intelligence to the formulation of effective methods of treatment, recently writes on the subject as follows :—

"Hysteria is pre-eminently the disease of indolence. Girls between the ages of seventeen and twenty-five, living at home in idleness, are especially liable to be attacked by it, and in such cases it usually assumes a romantic or a religious form. Imaginary 'love affairs,' or the mania for incessant church-going, fasting, and similar observances, usher in the first symptoms of the disorder. By and by some morbid fancy connected with the dominant train of thought begins to impress itself strongly upon the nervous centres, then sleeplessness and loss of appetite supervenes, frequent fits of depression, uncontrollable outbursts of tears, or unaccountable panics, headaches, feverishness, disturbed function, restlessness, alternating with strange languor, and at length, perhaps, an absolute inability to fix the mind on any subject save the one which has assumed supremacy. Meanwhile, in most such cases, the family doctor has vainly done his best—or worst—with chloral, bromide, or morphia; argument, entreaties, and sympathy have all been lavished in turn upon the patient without effect, and perhaps even the ministrations of the curate have been called into requisition. All is to no purpose, and at length, the poor young woman becomes a hopeless invalid, incessantly tormented with

all manner of pains and panics, a source of perpetual anxiety to her family, and of very decent income to her medical adviser."

After stating that drugs of all kinds have been tried with very meagre success, Dr. Anna Kingsford proceeds to say:—

"As for the electrical treatment of Hysteria, there are cases in which it may be advantageously administered, as, for instance, before the patient succumbs to its *cachexia*, and exhibits marked attenuation and debility. The ablest practitioners recommend, in such cases, a thorough treatment by means of general faradisation and central galvanisation. . . . Electrical treatment, whether by faradic or galvanic currents, requires to be perseveringly continued for some time before any marked results appear. . . . - The employment of generalised electrical treatment, whether galvanic, faradic, or franklinic, does not prevent the local application of currents to any part of the body specially affected. Muscles and internal organs may be submitted to any particular electrical stimulus that may seem to be indicated while the general treatment is being carried on. Drs. Beard and Rockwell, of the New York Academy of Medicine, recommend electrical treatment as the best, not only in well-marked cases of hysteria, but likewise in Epilepsy, Neuralgia, Chorea (St. Vitus' dance), Hypochondria, Neurasthenia, and the entire family of nervous disorders. In their exhaustive treatise on the medical and surgical uses of electricity, these gentlemen cite many instances of success obtained by the application of galvanism and faradism in all these maladies, after other remedies had failed to procure relief. I must not close without reference to a method of electrical treatment that is much in vogue. I speak of \*HARNESS' ELECTROPATHIC APPLIANCES, SUCH AS BELTS, SPINE-BANDS AND SO FORTH. Of course the therapeutic results obtained by wearing these contrivances, must, as Drs. Beard and Rockwell point out, depend on the manner of their construction and application. If well made and judiciously used, they prove of considerable service in cases of *painful* hysteria, that is, in cases associated with neuralgia of the intercostal nerves, 'Tender back,' or hyperæsthesia of the cuticle. Localised and superficial pains of this kind are especially likely to be relieved by such appliances."

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\* NOTE.—Harness' Electropathic Appliances are not only of themselves *bona-fide* generators of mild continuous currents of electricity, but some are constructed with terminals attached, so that by wires connected with the poles of a battery they can be used as media for transmitting more powerful currents from either a Galvanic or Faradic Battery as may be required.

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*Treatment.*—The suggestions I shall offer on this head will be largely based upon the familiar maxim that “Prevention is better than cure.” In the earlier indications of the malady much can be done to arrest its progress, by improving the condition of the nervous system, and in this respect the use of Electricity ranks highest of all known therapeutic agents. No drug has yet been discovered that exercises any specific action upon the disease. Speaking first of the young, when anxious mothers observe in the habits and demeanour of their growing up daughters any of the earlier signs of Hysteric tendencies before alluded to, the mild stimulative action of suitable Electropathic appliances, combined with right food, proper exercise, sufficient sleep, change of scene, and interesting the patient in any kind of useful work, will suffice to stop the mischief. The appliances I have found most effectual in such cases are HARNESS’ ELECTROPATHIC WAIST BELT and SPINE BAND of medium power, a combination including in the circuit of the currents the entire spinal tract and chief nerve centres, which are then under the stimulative and soothing influence exerted by a constant supply of electricity which emanates from chemical action.

The more pronounced and chronic forms of Hysteric disturbance of later life will in addition to the Electropathic appliances and hygienic measures suggested require more powerful treatment by Battery currents, as in all cases of recurrent Hysteria there is a great prostration from the enormous expenditure of the energy of the brain and exhaustion of nervous force. The necessities of each case must be judged by the peculiar and varying symptoms it presents, these latter should be fully stated when the sufferer can rely upon being placed under proper Electrical Treatment that is above all things calculated to effect a complete cure.

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## MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AUTHORITIES.

As to the high value of Electrification treatment in diseases incidental to women, strong and conclusive opinions of gentlemen holding distinguished positions in the Medical world are as follows:—

DR. HERBERT TIBBITS, M.D., M.R.C.P.E., says:—

“There are many cases of Amenorrhœa in which Electricity would seem to be *facile princeps* *THE REMEDY*. According to GOLDING BIRD it is the only true emmenagogue we possess; and in a recent number of the “*British Medical Journal*” there is an interesting report by DR. MYRTLE, of Harrogate, of the re-establishment of the catamenia and cessation of sympathetic Epileptic attacks that had persisted for three years—brought about by the constant current.”

DR. W. E. STEAVENSON, M.D., Cantab, M.R.C.P., Casualty Physician and Electrician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in an address on the therapeutical applications of Electricity, read in the Section of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the Fifty-Second Annual Meeting of the British Medical Association, said :—

“The results obtained by treatment of the genito-urinary organs by Electricity are among the most satisfactory, and I attribute this to the fact that the whole nervous supply of these organs can be included in the circuit, the centres which preside over them being situated in the lumbar enlargement of the cord.

*“In several cases of Hysteria which have been accompanied by Amenorrhœa of many months standing, one of the first effects of electrical treatment has been to restore the menstrual function.”*

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DR. GOLDING BIRD, in his Lectures on the Therapeutical uses of Electricity, delivered before the Royal College of Physicians of London, also says :—

“In Electricity we possess the only really direct emmenagogue with which the experience of our profession has furnished us. *I do not think I have ever known it fail to excite menstruation where the uterus was capable of performing this function.*”

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DRS. BEARD AND ROCKWELL, in their recent work, “Medical and Surgical Use of Electricity,” 1881, state, p. 529—

“That the diseases of female sexual organs, for which Electrification has been proved to be of service, are chiefly those of a functional character, as Amenorrhœa, Dysmenorrhœa, Menorrhagia, although some important results have been claimed in Irritation and Inflammation of the ovaries, Chronic Metritis, Enlargements, Displacements, and Atrophy of the Uterus.

“Electrification cures these diseases as much by its permanently tonic effects on the system as by its temporarily stimulating effects on the organs themselves.”



DR. A. DE WATTEVILLE, M.A., M.D., B.Sc., Physician in charge of the Electrical Department, St. Mary's Hospital, in a Practical Introduction to Medical Electricity, says—

“The efficacy of Electrification in Amenorrhœa of functional origin is now universally recognised.

“It appears to act chiefly by reflex action, *and need not necessarily be applied to the uterus itself.* . . . . The method is useful in certain cases of Menorrhagia, whilst nervous Dysmenorrhœa may be relieved and cured.

“I have frequently had the opportunity to observe the beneficial effects of the current on the pains and sense of weariness or discomfort depending upon various ovarian or uterine derangements. Generally speaking Electricity seems to deserve a much more extensive trial in uterine disorders than it has hitherto had.”

DR. ANDREW WILSON writes as follows in *Health* :—

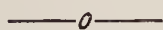
“I observe that the Medical Battery Company (Limited), whose Belt has been frequently recommended in *Health* as one of the very few genuine electrical appliances which the public may purchase with safety and satisfaction, have migrated to new and commodious premises at 52, Oxford Street, London, W. Mr. C. B. HARNESS becomes Managing Director of the Company in question. In these days of electrical quackery it is highly satisfactory to find that an enterprise for the development of electrical manufacture on a large scale has been successfully projected. The public become necessarily the gainers by such enterprise, inasmuch as the aims of a company conducted on the auspices of the Medical Battery Company, are those of perfecting and extending, by the aid of capital and skilled labour, the manufacture of electrical appliances as aids to health and to the cure of disease. I do not doubt the Company in question will fully justify, by the excellence of its manufactures, the confidence in its appliances I have hitherto expressed.”

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In conclusion, I may say that, in all instances where advice as to Electropathic treatment is sought by ladies suffering from any of these ailments *each individual case has my own special attention, and whether advised upon in personal consultation or by correspondence* IS REGARDED AS STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL. In the necessarily limited scope of a small Pamphlet it is impossible to give the independent testimony of past sufferers at any great length, but the following reprints of letters selected from vast numbers that have from time to time been received, speak volumes for the happy results achieved by the Electropathic treatment, results which are as gratifying to me as to the patients who have been under my care.

*The Medical Battery Company, Limited,*

## TESTIMONIALS.



THE attention of LADIES is directed to the following HIGHLY SATISFACTORY CASES, which are worthy of the closest investigation by all who suffer from these distressing Irregularities—

### MENSTRUAL IRREGULARITY.

“31, Hemingford Road, Barnsbury, London, N.,

“December 29th, 1885.

“Dear Sirs,—I am very glad to report most favourably of the extraordinary result of wearing the Electropathic Battery Belt I had of you in July last. You will probably remember the nature of my case, which was one of extreme debility and exhaustion, accompanied at times by painful hysteria, consequent upon defective circulation and periodic irregularity. I had been under the most skilful medical treatment that could be obtained for so long without getting even relief, that I had given up all hope of ever being well again. Fortunately, I heard of your Electropathic method, and I am so glad I took your advice to try the Belt, for before a month had elapsed, the hysterical symptoms, which had been so distressing disappeared, the circulation of the blood was improved, I gradually gained strength, and now I feel better than I have done ever since I was a girl. Mine is such a remarkable recovery, and I have such unbounded faith in the means by which it was at last accomplished, that I shall be quite willing for you to make my experience known. I should not like any one to continue to suffer as I did when relief was within reach; and if any lady wishes for further particulars of my case I shall be pleased to correspond with her.

“Yours truly,

(MRS.) “J. HAWKEY.

“TO THE MEDICAL BATTERY COMPANY,

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

## MENSTRUAL IRREGULARITY.

From Miss D—,

“ May 14th, 1885.

“ I am very pleased to tell you I have derived great benefit from your Electropathic Belt. For some time I had suffered with pain in the left hip and abdomen, and was very irregular. If you think my testimony would benefit others you may make use of it, but as I hold a public appointment, I must request that my name and address be not given publicly, although I shall be glad to correspond privately with any lady who would like further particulars of my case.”—(*Private reference to this lady will be given on application.*)

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## INTERNAL WEAKNESS.

From Miss M. HUDSON, Twyford, Derby,

“ October 20th, 1885.

“ C. B. HARNESS, ESQ.,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Some months ago I purchased one of your Electropathic Belts. I need not describe the symptoms here, but refer to my letter of June 17th, 1885, No. 3,144. I have worn the Belt every day since that date ; *it has been an untold comfort to me. I would not be without one*, and cannot say enough in favour of your Belts ; all I regret is they are not better known. *I shall be glad to write to any lady who may wish to hear more particulars respecting my case*, and shall certainly recommend your appliances to my friends.

“ Yours truly,

“ THE MEDICAL BATTERY CO.,

“ M. HUDSON.

“ 52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

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## INTERNAL WEAKNESS.

Miss CLARK, Stisted, Braintree, Essex, writes—

“ November 22nd, 1885.

“ Gentlemen,

“ I purchased one of your Electropathic Belts for my mother the beginning of last August. She has worn it constantly since then, and has found great benefit ; in fact, she is a different woman. I have recommended it to several of my friends, and shall still continue to do so.

“ Yours truly,

“ JANET CLARK.

“ THE MEDICAL BATTERY CO.,

“ 52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

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## NERVOUS DEBILITY.

Miss ELEANOR BARKER, Board Schools, Ashby, Brigg,  
writes—

“July 29th, 1885.

“Gentlemen,

“It is with feelings of the deepest gratitude that I tell you that the Electropathic appliances I procured, according to recommendation, have been the means of restoring me to my original health and strength. The langour which so distressed me and made life a burden has quite gone; the constipation which has for some years been my greatest difficulty has quite disappeared. Make whatever use you like of this letter. It is quite unsolicited on your part, but I could not help writing it, as I should like every sufferer who is likely to benefit from Electricity to be made acquainted with its marvellous effects. I will show your book to all whom it may concern, and will always recommend your treatment. With many thanks for your kindness and wishing you success,

“Yours truly,

“ELEANOR BARKER.

“THE MEDICAL BATTERY CO., Limited,

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

## PAIN IN BACK AND HIPS.

Mrs. AMELIA DUDMAN, Eashing, Godalming, Surrey,  
writes—

“November 26th, 1885.

“Dear Sir,

“I have delayed writing to you before because I wished to see whether the benefit I at first derived from your Electropathic Belt would continue. I am pleased to say it does. I have worn the Belt every day since I received it, and can assure you it has done me a great deal of good. I can now walk about comfortably, and get upright, which I have not been able to do for months together, and also perform all my duties without pain; and I eat and sleep well. My general health was very bad, but I am feeling quite a new woman since wearing your Electropathic Belt; it is very comfortable, and gives me such great satisfaction, that I am recommending it to my friends, and you are quite at liberty to use this testimony if you think well.

“I am, yours respectfully,

“AMELIA DUDMAN.

“Mr. C. B. HARNESS,

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”



## NERVOUS DEPRESSION.

A Lady at Dover writes—

“August 29th, 1885.

“Gentlemen,

“Many thanks for your kind enquiry as to the No. 3 Electropathic Belt ; the result is highly satisfactory, as after wearing it a few days I derived great benefit. My health is much improved, and I feel much stronger. My nervous system is also wonderfully restored, the depression of spirits and melancholia having entirely gone.

“To THE MEDICAL BATTERY CO.,

“52, Oxford Street, W.

“P.S.—Make what use you think proper of this, but I should wish my name and address not to be published.”

## OVARIAN NEURALGIA.

From Mrs. G. TWEEDY, 6, Eveswell Terrace,

“Maindee, near Newport, Mon.,

“Sir,

“May 26th, 1886.

“I have much pleasure in stating that I have received great benefit from the Electropathic Battery Belt you supplied me with. I must tell you my complaint was a severe pain and burning on my right side, and frequently extended around my hip and across my back. I had it more or less for six years—my medical man said I suffered with neuralgia of the ovaries—be that as it may, I must say I have found considerable benefit from wearing your Electropathic Belt and Electric Corset combined and would recommend them strongly to any person similarly situated. Thanking you for your kind enquiries,

“I am, yours respectfully,

“Mr. C. B. HARNESS,

(Mrs.) “G. TWEEDY.

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

## CHANGE OF LIFE.

From Mr. A. E. JEFFERIES,

“2, Fernham Terrace, Paignton, Devon.

“Dear Sirs,

“Having purchased one of your Electropathic Belts for my wife, I am happy to tell you it has given every satisfaction, she has been gently benefited by its use. You will probably remember the case (we were living at Polsham Road when the Belt was procured), but I may say it was about the turn of life with her and she had severe pains constantly in her back and right side, which have now entirely disappeared. Mrs. Jefferies has, in fact, received the greatest possible benefit from the Electropathic Belt and will always be pleased to recommend your appliances.”

“Yours truly,

“THE MEDICAL BATTERY CO.,

“A. E. JEFFERIES

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”



## DYSMENORRHŒA, INDIGESTION AND SICK-HEADACHE.

From Mrs. P—, George Town, Jersey,  
 “June 19th, 1886.

“Dear Sir,

“Yes, you are quite at liberty to refer to my case in any way so long as my name is not published, my husband would object to that. The Electropathic Belt has completely cured me of Indigestion and violent Sick-Headaches I had suffered from for many years, for which I had tried many remedies in vain. The Belt also removed the pains in the back and kidneys, and greatly relieved my suffering at the menstrual period. I have been attentively reading the little work you sent me on Electrification, as a remedy for the diseases of women, I find at bottom of page 9 what seems to be my case, the Congestive form of Dysmenorrhœa, every month the menses come on for a day or two and then they stop. I then feel unfit for any exertion, and walking is difficult. In your treatment you say that for obstinate cases a Belt with terminals is best, so that from a Battery the stimulative currents may be used to increase the influence upon the Uterus. This would help me for I believe most of my troubles arise from want of tone in the Uterine system and general debility. I have been asked for one or two of your little books. I have distributed the others and trust you will soon hear from a lady to whom I have recommended your treatment.

“To Mr. HARNESS,

“MEDICAL BATTERY COMPANY,

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

## PERIODICAL IRREGULARITIES.

From Mrs. E. SOWERBY,

“Adlington, Macclesfield,

“July 16th, 1886.

“Gentlemen,—It is with feelings of gratitude I write to tell you the benefit I have derived from wearing your Electropathic Belt. The palpitation of the heart, nervousness and langour quickly disappeared. The severe indigestion and sleeplessness are quite gone. I am feeling stronger and better in health than I have been for years, and I hope it may encourage other sufferers to give your appliances a trial. I shall certainly recommend them to my friends.

“I am, yours truly,

(Mrs.) “E. SOWERBY.

“THE MEDICAL BATTERY CO.,

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

## BAD CIRCULATION.

From Miss HOGG, 30, St. George's Road,

"Southwark, S.E.,

"Dear Sir,

"November 5th, 1882.

"Having worn your Belt appliances about two months, for bad circulation, I have pleasure in informing you that I am much better, my health being improved in every way. I shall certainly recommend your appliances to my friends.

"Yours truly,

"M. HOGG."

## LEUCORRHŒA AND EXTREME DEBILITY.

*Confidential.*

"July 26th, 1886.

"Dear Sir,

"In answer to your kind enquiry as to my present state of health, it will be, I am sure, satisfactory to you to hear that my recovery under your treatment is quite complete. You will doubtless remember that when I applied to you I was in a very weak and low condition, suffering from Extreme Debility, which I always knew was in a great measure caused by Chronic Leucorrhœa. All the various remedies I tried to get rid of this distressing trouble, only had a temporary effect, the malady always returning, and before I came to you I despaired of ever getting well, as the efforts of eminent medical men had been of no avail. A lady friend sent me your little book and after reading it I made up my mind to consult you. I have worn the No. 3 power belt you sent me daily since the first week in May, and regularly used the lotion as instructed, the happy result being that the Leucorrhœa has quite gone, and in my bodily health I am stronger and in better spirits than I have been for years. The success of your method in my own case corroborates the statement in your valuable book that this malady requires constitutional treatment that will tone up the system as well as the local measures upon which for years I had relied alone, and I may say in all sincerity that it is from this happy combination which your skill suggested to me that I owe my restoration. For the guidance of other sufferers of my sex, you are at liberty to make use of this letter with this condition that from motives of delicacy which I am sure you will appreciate I could not consent to the publication of my name and address, but it may be given to any of your lady patients who desire to refer to me privately, and I shall be glad to answer them within reasonable limits as to correspondence.

"I am, yours very truly,

"C. B. HARNESS, Esq.,

"ROSE P—.

"THE MEDICAL BATTERY CO., Limited,

"52, Oxford Street, London, W."

MENORRHAGIA, LEUCORRHŒA AND  
UTERINE NEURALGIA.

From Mrs. BURBIDGE, 181, Somers Rd., Southsea.

“Nov. 22nd, 1886.

“I am happy to inform you that the No. 3 power HARNESS' ELECTROPATHIC BELT I procured according to your recommendation has been the means of restoring me to much better health than I have enjoyed for years. The langour which so distressed me and made life a burden has quite gone, the constipation which had for some years been my greatest difficulty has also disappeared, and the bilious attacks and headaches have also entirely ceased. My general health is now good, I have gradually gained strength daily, and it is with feelings of the deepest gratitude I tell you this, as you will no doubt remember my case had been of very long standing.

“Yours respectfully,

“MATILDA BURBIDGE.

“THE MEDICAL BATTERY CO., LD.,

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”



## HYSTERIA AND DEBILITY.

From Mrs. ELIZABETH PRENTICE, c/o Miss Macdonald,  
62, Mount Street, New City Road, Glasgow.

“October 19th, 1886.

“Dear Sir,

“In answer to your letter, I am greatly indebted to you for your kindness and attention in my case, and after careful study of your little book I may say it depicts many of my symptoms. The Doctor of the Infirmary treated me for Anæmia and poorness of the blood, caused by a debilitated constitution, and I may say most of the other complaints your book refers to have followed more or less. *I am proud to be able to say your ELECTROPATHIC BELT has been of great service, and has acted as a charm in relieving the Hysteria and soothing the nervous system in a manner medicines never did.* Mine was a case that sometimes baffled even myself to know exactly what was the cause of my sufferings, but the relief I have obtained has been the wearing of your Belt. I shall be happy to do what I can in the way of making your treatment known among my friends, and willing to write to any Lady, as to the great benefit I have derived from it.

“Yours truly,

“ELIZABETH PRENTICE.

“TO MR. C. B. HARNESS,

“MEDICAL BATTERY CO., LD.,

“52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

## UTERINE DISPLACEMENT AND GREAT BODILY WEAKNESS.

From Miss P—,

“ July 14th, 1886.

“ C. B. HARNESS, Esq.,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Thanks for your enquiry respecting the Electropathic Belt, I am pleased to tell you that it has given every satisfaction, I had been an invalid for more than three years, not able to walk much and had been under the care of five doctors, the last a London Physician—had been successful in curing the primary cause of the weakness, “ displacement of the womb,”—*the great bodily weakness did not yield to any treatment*, but since I have worn the Belt I have been much stronger and can walk better, and do not have to spend so much time on the couch. I find the Belt strengthens the weakness in my back very much indeed. It seems to have the same effect that a very bracing climate would, while it causes the blood to circulate more freely and warmly. You are quite at liberty to make what use you like of this letter, but please be kind enough to withhold name and address unless for private reference.”

*The name and address can be furnished on the application of any lady wishing to communicate PRIVATELY as suggested.*

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## OBSTINATE MENSTRUAL IRREGULARITY.

“ 34, Park Place, Cardiff,

“ September 14th, 1886.

“ I sent for Mr. Harness' Electropathic Waist Belt, of No. 3 power, and have worn it for six weeks. Since wearing it I have not suffered from headache; my nervous system is decidedly strengthened, and the menstrual function is healthily re-established.

“ Yours truly,

“ BESSIE JOSEPH.

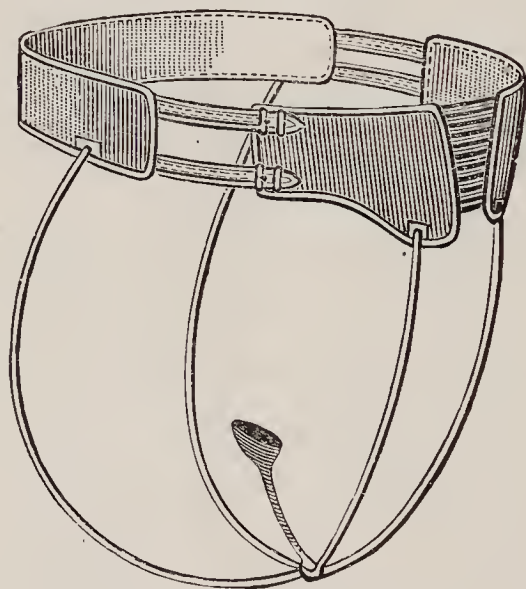
“ THE MEDICAL BATTERY COMPANY, LIMITED,

“ 52, Oxford Street, London, W.”

# HARNESS' NATURAL UTERINE SUPPORTER.

**D**ISPLACEMENTS of the womb are accountable for very many ailments with which women are afflicted. The reason of this is apparent when we take into consideration the structure and important anatomical relation of this organ. Retained in a cavity formed with unyielding walls, surrounded by structures upon the performance of whose unhampered functions the well-being of the economy depends, abundantly supplied with nerve and blood-vessels, possessing such mysterious and remarkable sympathetic relations with the most distant organs of the body, the wonder is that such a structure as the womb should tolerate, as it often does for a long time, grave departures from its natural position, without setting in operation that long train of symptoms which eventually makes the lives of its unhappy victims wretched and burdensome, and the prospects of death more to be desired than the tolerance of life.

We desire to call the attention of physicians and sufferers to **THE NATURAL UTERINE SUPPORTER**,



invented by Mr. C. B. HARNESS, which from the ease of its application, and general adaptability to all cases of falling of the womb, anteversion, retroversion, etc., is far superior to all others heretofore in use. This is proved by the fact that since its introduction it has come into more general use than all other instruments combined. Among the many reasons which give the supporter preference, is its self-adjusting properties. The physician, after applying it, need have no fear that he will be called in haste to remove or readjust it, as is often the case with rings and the various pessaries held in position by pressure against the vaginal walls, **AS THE PATIENT CAN REMOVE IT AT WILL & REPLACE IT WITHOUT ASSISTANCE.**

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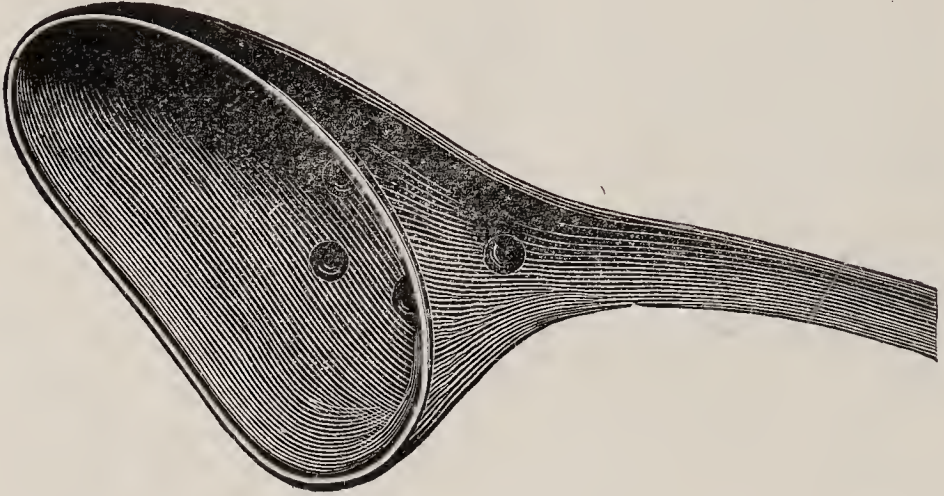
*The Medical Battery Company, Limited,*



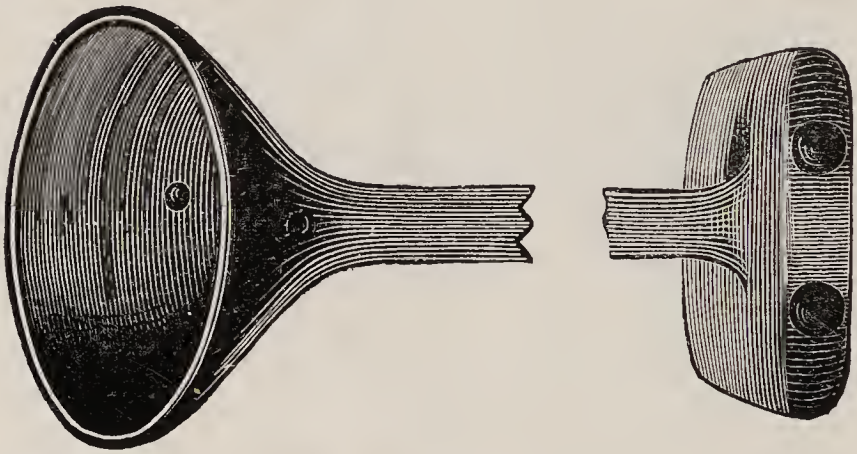
## A few of the Reasons why this Instrument is used in preference to all others, are :

1. It is an Abdominal and Uterine Supporter combined.
2. *It is simple in construction.* The abdominal support is a broad morroco belt, with elastic straps to buckle around the hips, with concave front so shaped as to hold up the abdomen. The uterine support is a cup and stem, made of hard rubber, which is quite impervious to the acid or alkaline reactions of the utero-vaginal excretions, and attached to the belt by elastic rubber tubes.
3. *Convenient to apply and wear.* The uterine support (cup and stem), being composed of light vulcanized rubber, with a highly polished surface, has no joints or crevices for secretions to collect. The cup is so constructed that all excretions from the womb will readily pass out. The stem is elastic, and by heating over a lamp can be bent to any curve desired, and retain the curve when once changed. It will not corrode like those composed of silver or other metals, but after being worn for years will retain its original polish.
4. *Happy in its adaptation.* The cup is not a perfect circle, but flattened to fit the neck of the uterus, which has as definite a shape as the hand or foot ; thus it gives support to all points alike. Instruments should in all cases be constructed so as to fit the neck of the womb. A ROUND cup or ring cannot be used without causing irritation and ulceration, if continued.
5. The patient may walk, run, lift, sit, or take any position of the body, without pain or inconvenience.
6. *It will not interfere in any way with Nature's necessities.*
7. *It is positive in its effects.* It will in every case produce the desired relief.
8. *It is self-adjusting,* very comfortable to the patient, and can be worn for any length of time without fear of irritation or pain.
9. The instrument is supported or held in place by two soft, elastic rubber tubes, fastened to the back and front of the belt. The cords, being elastic, perform the office of the ligaments or natural supports of the womb, and allow the easy tilting motion that is produced by walking ; hence its name, THE NATURAL UTERINE SUPPORTER. Its simplicity, durability, ease and comfort to the wearer, commend it to every sufferer.
10. *It is superior to any of the rigid instruments,* which are very irritating and annoying to the wearer, and which in a great many cases make the disease worse. It is also very much superior to any ring supporter, which constricts and strangulates the neck of the uterus, thus causing injury, and in many cases cannot be worn at all.

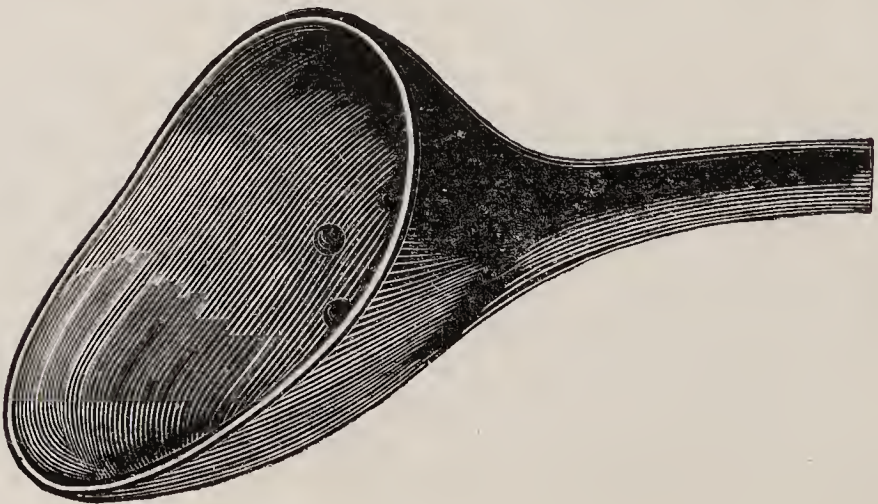
An important feature of Harness' Natural Uterine Supporter is its adaptation to the various cases and forms of displacements. It can be easily removed and replaced by the person wearing it, and is without a rival for the various forms of prolapsus of the womb, and in the other deviations of the uterus.



CUP FOR RETROVERSION.



CUP FOR PROLAPSUS.



CUP FOR ANTEVERSION.

*Of the three chief forms of Displacements of the Womb*  
 PROLAPSUS is by far the most common, most annoying, and most obstinate to cure, as usually managed. In these cases one of the most important means of cure is to elevate the pelvic viscera. The *Abdominal Belt of Harness' Natural Uterine Supporter* here does excellent service; it holds up the intestines out of the pelvic cavity, and exerts an *upward tension* of the ligaments, and is so very beneficial that in slight cases it has effected a cure alone, without the use of the cup. The cup is so shaped as to contract and impart tone to the vaginal walls, while the elastic cords coax the relaxed ligaments to regain their normal functions. It fully supplies what is required, namely an elastic apparatus which assists rather than supersedes Nature.

ANTEVERSION of the womb, while not so frequent as prolapsus, is more liable to be overlooked. The vesical symptoms often mislead the physician. It will be seen that the above cup is peculiarly adapted to anteversion. The slight, tilting, backward motion it keeps up so relaxes the round ligaments and strengthens the utero-sacral ligaments, that when the instrument is removed all the organs are in their normal position.

RETROVERSION.—The cup for this is peculiarly adapted to the anatomy of this displacement. It lifts forward on the body of the uterus rather than crowds up into the posterior cul-de-sac and backward against the rectum. The tension of the posterior straps tilts the uterus forward, while the belt lifts the pelvic viscera upward, and enables the patient to stand perfectly erect and well.

The abdominal effort of the muscles of the floor of the pelvis to perform the functions of the ligament above often gives rise to a hyperæsthesia which results in vaginismus, hysteria, and other forms of nervous irritability. The marked relief afforded when this instrument is applied, with *broad base of the stem* supporting the perinæum, is a great advantage that is possessed by no other instrument.

It must be borne in mind by patients seeking relief from uterine displacements by aid of the supporter, that they should avoid all the exciting causes which tend to produce the disease. For instance, a patient suffering from falling of the womb would find very little relief in wearing the Supporter, which would raise the womb to its natural position and support the bowels, and at the same time to constrict the waist with tight clothing and press the bowels down upon the sensitive womb, thus counteracting the very beneficial effects which the use, under favourable conditions, of HARNESS' NATURAL UTERINE SUPPORTER, will undoubtedly produce.



## Directions for Adjusting Harness' Natural Uterine Supporter.

The patient should put on the belt, having previously attached the tubes at the back, after threading the tubes through the holes in the stem. Then she should recline on the side, and the womb having been replaced to *near* its normal position the cup is then introduced. Draw the tubes up snug, and then fasten them in front.

In bad cases, and if there is much irritation or inflammation, the tubes should be quite loose at first and then they may be gradually tightened. The belt should fit closely at the lower edge only, and the upper edge should be quite loose. The patient should wear no corsets, and should support her skirts from the shoulders. The instrument should be worn till the ligaments are all able to support the uterus alone.

The cup may be removed during menstruation, if it produces any annoyance, and the patient should keep very quiet during this time. The belt may be kept on ; a few days should be allowed after menstruation, to test the strength of the ligaments. If able to hold the womb well up, the belt only need to be worn ; finally, this may be laid aside, when all is right. When any severe exertion is to be made, the belt should, however, be worn.

The time the Supporter should be worn will vary. The fact that it may be worn in parts is an advantage that is noteworthy. In this way it develops the tone of the ligaments and muscles in a remarkable degree.

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Full particulars as to prices may be obtained on application to MR. C. B. HARNESS, to whom a detailed statement of the case should be submitted, addressed to—

**The Medical Battery Company, Limited,**

**52, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.**

## PRESS NOTICES.

(*Lady's Pictorial*, September 4th, 1886.)

The Thirtieth Thousand has just been issued "for private circulation only" of the treatise written by Mr. C. B. HARNESS, of the Medical Battery Company, 52, Oxford Street, W., on "Electrisation as a Remedy for the Diseases of Women." This little pamphlet is written with considerable skill and ingenuity, the object being to refer sufferers from the various complaints enumerated in it to electrical appliances for treatment. Incidentally a great deal of wise advice is given, and much instruction on physiological details afforded. There can be no doubt of the fact that scientifically directed treatment by galvanism, faradic and static electricity is destined to hold a prominent place in medical therapeutics. American and continental Physicians have already brought this method of treatment into vogue ; many thick volumes have been written about it, and it is rapidly becoming fashionable in this country. Dr. W. E. Steavenson, Dr. de Watteville, Dr. Vivian Poore, Dr. Tibbits and others, have contributed largely to our knowledge of electro-therapeutics, and every month enlarges the sphere of usefulness which the new science is likely to fill. The disorders of women, being specially under the influence of nervous disturbance, are, as a rule, particularly amenable to electrical treatment. Hysteria and melancholy depression, as well as neuralgic pain, headaches, and "weak back," yield to such treatment when all ordinary remedies fail ; and even the most hopeless cases are capable, if not of cure under its influence, at least of every marked improvement.

ANNA KINGSFORD, M.D. (*Paris*).

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# A NEW TRUSS!

NOTE—only Address:  
**52, Oxford St., W.**

**WEIGHS ONLY  
 A FEW  
 OZS.**

**AN IMPORTANT INVENTION.**—Mr. C. B. HARNESS, the well-known Inventor of Electro-pathic Belts and other Curative Electrical appliances, has lately introduced a New Truss known as

## HARNESS' XYLONITE TRUSS

Which has already been highly approved of and adopted by the Highest Scientific and Medical authorities. It gives complete comfort and support without irritation; and has a beautifully smooth flesh-coloured surface of a washable and durable material. It is cheap, and is guaranteed to last a lifetime. No sufferer should be without one of these

*Perfect  
 Trusses.*

COMBINES  
**HEALTH,  
 COMFORT,  
 ELEGANCE,  
 AND  
 CLEANLINESS.**

## HARNESS' XYLONITE TRUSS

IS Self-Adjusting, Light, Comfortable, and Non-irritating. Can be worn by any person under all circumstances, in any climate. It is absolutely free from Rubber, Leather, and other objectionable material, and is admitted by the most distinguished Surgeons to possess all the advantages and none of the disadvantages of every other Truss in the Market.

**Each Truss is guaranteed to last  
 a lifetime.**

*Skilled advice free of charge.*

PARTICULARS FREE ON APPLICATION TO—  
**C. B. HARNESS, Consulting Electrician,  
 THE MEDICAL BATTERY COMPANY, LTD.,  
 52, Oxford St., LONDON, W.**

SAMUEL CHILDS, Esq., Chilham Castle, Canterbury, writes :—

“October 22nd, 1886.

“I have now worn your XYLONITE TRUSS some time and it does not soil at all by wearing like others, and after twenty-five years of Truss wearing I find it far and away the best kind of Truss I ever had.”

A GENTLEMAN from Wimbledon writes :—

“After years of torture and misery, caused by the wearing of Trusses for *Scrotal Rupture*, and after trying every known style and make, I was persuaded a few months ago to try HARNESS' XYLONITE, the comfort from which has far exceeded my fondest expectations.—October 22nd, 1886.” *Reference permitted.*

**Testimonials from the Highest Medical Authorities and others  
 received daily.**



IF THIS FORM SHOULD COME UNDER THE NOTICE OF ANY PERSON SUFFERING FROM INDIGESTION, CONSTIPATION, DYSPEPSIA, RHEUMATISM, GOUT, LUMBAGO, SCIATICA, LIVER OR KIDNEY COMPLAINTS, EPILEPSY, HYSTERIA, OR ANY DISORDER OF THE UTERINE SYSTEM requiring remedial treatment, this Form should be filled up, and returned addressed to Mr. C. B. HARNESSE, Consulting Electrician,

# The Medical Battery Co., Limited,

52, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.,

who will be happy to give the patient the benefit of his long experience in the use of Electricity as a curative Agent

CONSULTATION OR ADVICE BY LETTER FREE.

Folio

Date

In giving the undermentioned particulars of your case please be explicit, and note remarks at foot.

Name and Address:—

Married, Single, or Widow:—

Occupation:—

Age:—

Nature of Illness:—

Cause and Symptoms:—

Under what treatment:—  
(Past or Present.)

General Health:—

Abstainer or otherwise:—

Measurement round Waist,  
Hips & Chest, next the Body:—

1.—MR. C. B. HARNESSE, Consulting Medical Electrician, advises in every instance, on behalf of the Company, without charge, and will be greatly assisted in forming a clear diagnosis of the patient's case by receiving the particulars indicated under the different headings stated as explicitly as possible. Compliance with these suggestions will often prevent delay and disappointment.

2.—During a long experience in the treatment of intricate and obscure affections, often of the most delicate character, MR. C. B. HARNESSE has frequently found that nervous delicacy has deprived him of full information; he would therefore recommend correspondents to communicate freely, and without reserve, every communication with which he is favoured being regarded as strictly confidential. In some instances, special permission is given to use a statement respecting successful treatment, but this is never done without the patient's consent.

3.—A letter has often been of more service to the patient and

value to the practitioner than a personal consultation, as it enables the writer to state unreservedly minute details, which might be overlooked by nervous patients in the natural agitation and diffidence of an interview.

4.—The interest which former patients evince in favour of Electropathy has proved sufficient to inspire confidence in others. By this means its reputation has been so far extended that the "Electropathic" treatment, as introduced by the MEDICAL BATTERY COMPANY, LIMITED, has obtained a well-established reputation, and is superseding all other methods of combating disease.

5.—Explain any point not included in the foregoing inquiries, but which should be known as a condition of, or helping towards, successful treatment.

6.—Future reference by letter to this case should have its folio number prefixed.

The Medical Battery Company, Limited, Only 52, Oxford Street, London, W.,  
Address,





# HARNESST

LADIES'

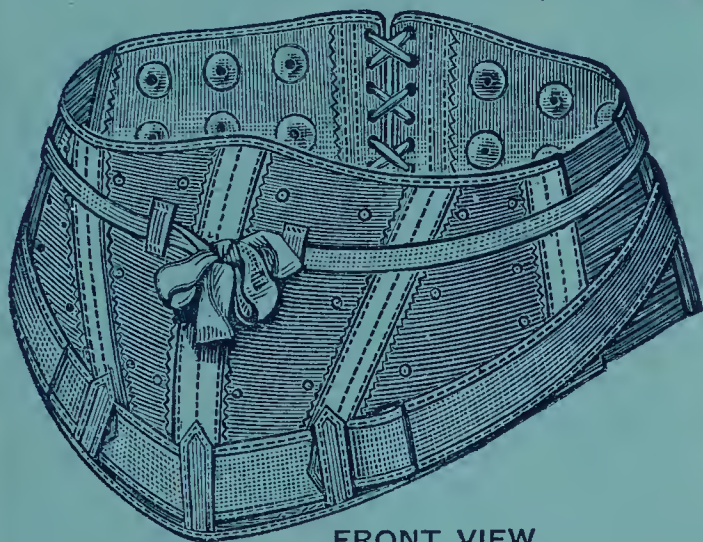
SUPPORTING MODEL FIGURE

## ELECTROPATHIC

ABDOMINAL

## BELT.

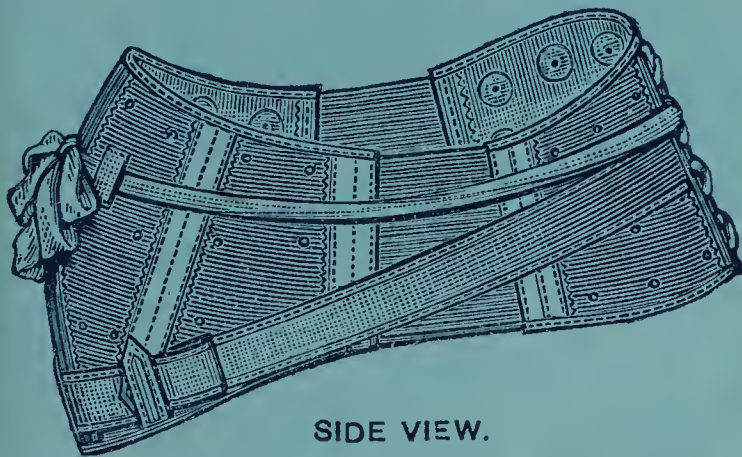
WEIGHS  
ONLY



A FEW  
OZS.

FRONT VIEW.

ELEGANT in APPEARANCE, SCIENTIFICALLY  
CONSTRUCTED, RECOMMENDED by the FACULTY,  
PERFECT FIT, HIGHEST FINISH.



SIDE VIEW.

The Medical Battery Co., Limited,  
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OF THE  
Medical Battery Company, Limited



52, OXFORD STREET  
LONDON, W.

(CORNER OF RATHBONE PLACE).